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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink."

FRIDAY, MAY 31, 1946

"Lest We Forget"

Shut-in's Day comes around again on the first Sunday of June to be earmarked for some very special visits—call on some friend, or friends, whom we have not visited for some time. If we can't visit them, flowers are always in order; and a cheery letter or card helps far more than one might think. In any case, let those shut-in friends know they are not forgotten, even if they do have to watch life from a hospital cot or a wheel-chair. If our shut-in friends can go out a bit—with our kind help—then let us see if they can go for a drive; that is a rare treat for many. Or, if we can, take them to the morning church service—some of the churches are having something special for the sick folk on the first Sunday of June. Making Shut-in's Day a very happy day for two friends will be one of the happiest days in our experience, too. We will not wait till next June to repeat the experience, but will help to fulfil the real purpose of Shut-in's Day—to make life happier for the sick and the disabled, both veteran and civilian, every day of the year.

Dr. Croteau's Departure

There will be general regret felt at the departure of Dr. J. T. Croteau and Mrs. Croteau, who leave today for San Antonio, Texas, where Dr. Croteau intends returning to the teaching profession. Their departure from Prince Edward Island has been influenced largely by the fact that Mrs. Croteau has not been in good health, and removal to a warmer climate has been deemed advisable.

The many tributes to Dr. Croteau's efforts in the development of co-operatives and credit unions in this Province, paid at the banquet tendered in his honour on Tuesday night, were indeed well merited. He is a recognized authority on these subjects, and his zeal and ability to inspire enthusiasm and give leadership are no less marked than his expert knowledge. His place will be hard to fill, but he leaves with the satisfaction of knowing that he has performed work of the first importance to the people of this Province, and particularly to our farmers and fishermen, who are the chief beneficiaries under the co-operative movement.

Mr. Bracken On Farm Prices

Hon. John Bracken's plea for lifting food price ceilings to a level with the prices of commodities which our farmers have to buy, did not win Liberal support in the House of Commons. Nevertheless it will be understood and appreciated throughout the country. There was a lengthy debate on this subject, but the points raised by Mr. Bracken remain unanswered.

The Conservative leader proved conclusively his first point, namely that farm production is going down in Canada, not up, despite the crying demand for food in Europe and elsewhere. From January to March of this year, as compared with January to March of last year, our production of butter showed a drop of 18 per cent; our production of factory cheese showed a reduction of 33 per cent; our production of concentrated milk products a reduction of 9 per cent. The number of hogs slaughtered showed a decline of 50 per cent compared with 1944 and of 33 per cent compared with 1945.

Adding up the total production of creamery butter, factory cheese, concentrated milk products, dressed weight of inspected slaughter of livestock products, including hogs, cattle, calves, sheep, and lambs, Mr. Bracken showed that in 1944 the total produced was, in round figures, 2,900 million pounds. In 1945 it was 2,700 million pounds. The figures for January, February and March, of this year as compared with the same period last year and the year before are still more disquieting. In 1944 the total was 716 million pounds; in 1945 it was 632 million pounds, and in 1946 502 million pounds; a reduction this year of 30 per cent as compared with two years ago and 20 per cent as compared with last year.

Mr. Bracken pointed out that the policy of the Government with respect to price ceilings in the early years of the war had been to fasten upon agriculture a level of prices 20 per cent below parity, and it remained that way for some years. Through constant pressure some price ceilings have been raised from time to time, but generally speaking these changes came too late. In the meantime there have been substantial price increases in raw material, machinery, and other farm production requirements.

In wholesale prices Mr. Bracken showed that the index has been rising every month since September of last year, with the rate of increase becoming steadily greater. For the past three months increase in wholesale prices is actually close to the average rate of increase from January to October, 1941, before the price ceiling policy was instituted.

Moreover, farm labor costs have more than doubled over 1939, and they are 40 per cent more than in 1943.

"That is the point I wish to make," Mr. Bracken said, "namely that this policy has discouraged production and that it is creating an inequity that this House ought not to allow, an inequity which affects a great section of the rural population. Another evidence of this fact is to be found in the small increases introduced by the government since this motion appeared on the order paper. It will be sufficient to mention only a few of them: The removal of the two per cent consumer subsidy on milk; the proposad removal in September of the producer subsidy of 55 cents per 100 pounds; the temporary increase from 35 cents to 55 cents per hundred until September; the increase of four cents a pound on butter; an increase on hogs; an increase of 10 cents a hundred just the other day on milk entering into the production of cheese; and an increase of 8 cents a hundred on milk used in the production of concentrated milk products. Those are the minor increases that have been given to this great industry, while costs all along the line have been going up. That, together with the fear in the farmers' minds that later on prices are not going to be so good, is the reason for the abandonment of farms in this and other parts of Ontario. It is causing the farmer to say, 'If we cannot make a little more out of this than we put into it, we will slow up until conditions get better.' With farm labour difficult to get, with farm labour higher in price, with only about one out of five of the boys who left the farms during the war to go into munition work at high pay coming back, with farmers growing older and finding these difficult labour conditions to face, not having the same patriotic impulse to produce that they had during the war, many are not now feeling the necesstiy of putting their shoulders into it as they did, and the result is decreased production."

Failure to formulate a long-range agricultural policy is a major ndictment against the King Government, and one of the strongest which could be brought against any administration at this time.

— EDITORIAL NOTES —

Union Day—South Africa's equivalent of Dominion Day.

* * * *

U. S. rail strike and coal strike are settled; it remains now to have Canada's Seamen's strike terminated to let us go forward with much needed developments in trade and industry.

* * * *

The old-fashioned, religious peasantry of England still believe in the efficacy of prayer. Farmers who worked all morning carting water from English lakes gathered in village churches at night to pray for an end to an eight-week drought. Rogation Sunday—the fifth Sunday after Easter set aside by the Church of England for blessings on the season's crops—was devoted to special entreaties for rain.

* * * *

Mr. John Strachey, the new British Minister of Food, comes of a long line of literary and educational geniuses, and is himself a journalist and author, being editor of *The Socialist Review*, and writer of about a dozen works of a social and economic description. His father, the late John St. Loe Strachey, was a distinguished editor of *The Spectator*, London, and his aunt, Miss Joan Strachey, principal of Newnham College, Cambridge.

* * * *

Mrs. George Black, 80, whose husband is Conservative member of Parliament for the Yukon, attributes her good health and grasp on youth to honest toil and spicy temper. "If you have these, then nothing in the world will bother you," she said in an interview at Winnipeg. "If you can see the joke on yourself and not take yourself too seriously, and don't expect too much from the world, you get along pretty well."

* * * *

Walt Whitman, American poet, born this day at Long Island; was editor successively of *The Long Islander, Brooklyn Eagle, Boston Freeman;* wrote unrhymed and irregular verse of striking power; publications, *Leaves of Grass, Drum Taps:*

Away with themes of war! Away with war itself!
Hence from my shuddering sight to never more return that show of blacken'd, mutilated corpses;
That hell unbent and raid of blood, fit for wild tigers or for lop-tongued wolves, not reasoning men.

* * * *

Vigorous protests were made against the temporary suspension of wholesale price ceilings on red and blue brands of beef, without benefit of a corresponding suspension on retail prices, at a meeting of Saint John retail meat dealers at the offices of the Retail Merchants' Association. Telegrams of protest were sent to Hon. J. L. Ilsley, acting Prime Minister; D. King Hazen, K.C., M.P. for Saint John-Albert, and Donald Gordon, chairman of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board, pointing out that it is impossible for the retailer to absorb the losses resulting from the lifting of whole ceilings. It was pointed out at the meeting that the retailers had welcomed price control at its inception realizing that without this there was grave danger of inflation. They appreciated that supplies would not have been as fairly distributed as well as they were without this control. In an effort to "do their bit towards winning the war," speakers stressed, they willingly carried on the task of handling coupons, operating from price charts, explaining to the public when coupons were due and when they expired, also the value of them. This entailed extra hours of work for the retailer and added costs through the acquisition of extra help with no expense to the consumer. It was emphasized that the retailer did not receive any remuneration but was forced to pay additional overhead.

Notes By The Way

Texas strawberries are being flown to Canada by air freight The local variety may be high, too, since the ceiling on prices nas been removed. —Brantford Expositor

More and more voices are being added to the demand for an amendment to the Criminal Code which will make parents culpable for the deaths of children left alone in their homes It is urged that those guilty should face trial for manslaughter. There undoubtedly should be such a law, but even that would not go far enough. Responsibility should not occur only after a fatality. A charge should lie against any parents who leave children unprotected in their homes, even if no fire breaks out What we want is not mere punishment for the tragic death of infants, but prevention of the conditions which invite it. —Windsor Star.

The reason that European cities are cleaner than ours is that the people in those cities as individuals have more respect for their streets and parks, and abhor, more than we abhor on this continent, any kind of waste. No mechanical contrivances can keep streets and parks clean when individuals insist on keeping them dirty by throwing things on them. At least, if there are any, they haven't appeared on the market That we should be personally scrubbed and perfumed by the latest personal aids should never draw the eye from public pride to individual conceit. — Hamilton Spectator.

Most motorists would like to give a lift to people who are forced to seek assistance to get from one place to another But motorists cannot be blamed if they refuse to do so; they would be taking too great a chance; for it is certain that, with the general increase in crime, these will be an increasing tendency to resort to this easy method of theft and holdup. There is only one safe rule for motorists to follow—refuse to pick up civilian hitchhikers under any circumstances Unfortunately, many honest hitchhikers will suffer if this rule is followed, but motorists cannot afford to take a chance. —Kingston Whig-Standard.

Among the Anthropods (species or family-group name) can be found a creature that walks about on this earth without the support of any kind of internal skeleton. This creature is more commonly called "granddaddy longlegs" and can be seen crawling about in the grass or wobbling along on its elongated stilt-like legs. Members of this species have jointed appendages or legs of some type, and the surface of the body is covered with a secretion called "chitin" which hardens on contact with the air. It is this covering formed by the chitin which supports the organs of the body and makes acomotion possible. —From Forest and Outdoors.

In a world that seems to be given over to strife and suspicion, a simple thing like a barn-raising can restore our faith in the human race When 35 neighbors of Mr. Adolph Armstrong gathered at his farm near South Woodslee and worked like Trojans all day to put up his barn, they were demonstrating that the heart of humanity still beats true. For Mr. Armstrong is blind He has not allowed his handicap to interfere with his usefulness, but still operates his farm. His display of courage in the face of adversity has won for him the admiration of his friends, which was exemplified in their neighborly act The world is not so bad a place after all, when such things can happen. —From Windsor Star.

Already we find that many of the more accessible bodies of water which were favorite resorts of anglers in past years because of their adequate resources no longer qualify for such designation. Indeed, in not a few cases they are shunned by anglers, or visited only as a last resort, because they have been virtually "fished out". The same thing must inevitably happen to other lakes and streams if additional restrictions are not imposed. Many a lake or river in which the game fish population is steadily declining is already in need of a rest from anglers. These bodies of water urgently require closing to all fishing if they are to be given a chance to survive. As time passes, the number of these places, impoverished of fish, must increase unless something is done and soon to furnish them with relief. —Brockville Recorder and Times.

Reflection on what an admirable Chief Scout "Monty" would make is almost inevitable after a visit to his new caravan home at Hindhead. A friend who has just come back from visiting the field marshal tells me he found him well buttoned up in a sort of British warm, finding the present cold snap a bit of a change, perhaps, from the African desert. He has made the three caravans that were his home and workshop during the war into a country home where I suspect he intends to spend more than the conventional weekend Inside the caravan in which he works there are three prominent photographs, reflecting presumably a military appraisement of his chief opponents in the war. They are Rommel, whom he always desired to meet, Model and Kesselring. "Monty" has the true Scout instinct and my friend brought back with him a delightful picture of the field marshal stirring up the logs outside his caravan. The three caravans have been parked in the grounds of Amesbury School where he has an old friend in the headmaster. Major Reynolds. — From London Letter.

King Victor Emmanuel II of Italy was a little man who cast a long shadow Though never a great figure on the world stage, he lived at the centre of great events, and by his acts and his failure to act he had an influence on the fate of his country and the fate of Europe larger than his power as a King or his capacity as a statesman, says The New York Times His lifetime covers the whole history of modern Italy and reminds us how young and imperfectly welded it is as a united nation The 46 years of his reign spanned two major wars in which Italy—the pendulum in the European balance of power—swung first to one side and then to the other and crashed at last in the wreckage of a policy of adventure. It saw the rise and fall of Fascism. Victor Emmanuel will live in the annals of our time as the king who deliberately installed in power a Duce stronger than himself. That, rather than the decision he took on May 9, 1946, was his act of abdication He was the first to submit to Mussolini, and when at last he got rid of him, it was too late to save the throne or the country from the tragic consequences of 20 years of subservience.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Sir,— Social Security cannot be bought. "By the sweat of thy brow shalt thou earn thy daily bread". Social security cannot be guaranteed without the loss of something that is much more valuable and that is personal liberty. We have heard so much about freedom from fear and freedom from want, that we are almost persuaded that these conditions are possible and even desirable.

Supposing the government did owe every man a living and could deliver the goods what better off would we be? As a matter of history and of common sense the government owes no man a living. The government owns nothing but the building in which it works, when it does work and that belongs to the people.

The less the government interfers and intervens in business and the more the individual is free to exercise his own initiative the better. Rugged individualism and not hamstered paternalism seems to be the secret of survival where democratic institutions are allowed to function

The sooner business under our democratic capitalistic set up is free to expand and free from unnecessary and arbitrary restrictions the sooner we will get back to a normal way of living again.

It is the privilege of government to regulate, not to dictate. When bureaucracy undertakes to tell our captains of industry how business should be managed it is treading on dangerous ground If there were more of our captains of industry in our legislative chambers the situation would be different.

Industry, trade and commerce at the present moment are so hampered by the short sightedness of the phetocratic, the criminal stupidity of many of their leaders and the reluctance of the government to govern that creeping paralysis threatens to destroy the work of centuries.

The socialists have a remedy They would liquidate the capitalist. They would take over the complete control of industry, and put the name of every able-bodied man and woman on the payroll. "From each according to his ability and to each according to his need" There is social security for you; so simple that even a child can understand.

Across the Atlantic the mother of parliaments, under a socialist regime, at the present moment is initiating social security, nationalizing the mines, liquidating the capitalists, and at the same time liquidating the British Empire. Just how withdrawing from Egypt and the Seuz Canal and leaving India by the back door is going to increase the world's freedom from fear is not at once apparent. Abandoning India and the Mediterranean and retaining Hong Kong and Singapore do not seem to fit into the same picture. But perhaps in the near future our socialist friends in Britain will, in the interests of collaboration with China and Japan, abandon Singapore and the East as they seem to be folding up in the west.

Over here on this side of the Atlantic the Canadian Commonwealth Federation had quite an elaborate and highly interesting plan of social security all ready to launch on the innocent and unsuspecting public Socialism again The C C F would take full control of industry It would relieve the capitalist of his property and of his pooket book, distribute the profits of industry smoothly and efficiently through every hamlet and every parish from the Atlantic to the Pacific It looked so good and seemed so easy that even the economist was impressed But something went wrong, and the thing did not materialize It must not be allowed to materialize as it would disturb the "status quo" and shake our cherished party system to its very foundations. And so to make a long story short the Dominion of Canada has launched its own social security programme. Dare we use the word Dominion? And the first fruits of this programme guaranteed to provide freedom from fear and freedom from want to every man, woman and child is the celebrated Family allowance. Two hundred million dollars of tax payers' money rained down upon us like manna in the wilderness Surely for this high expenditure there must be some justification somewhere Yes, there is education But what a lack of foresight here! It is doubtful if this vast expenditure of money will raise the intelligence quotient of Canadian youth one degree. If that sum of money had been put in charge of a responsible non-political commission to be used in the interest of a national or international system of education the result would have been stupendous. The best justification we have heard for this socialistic extravagance is that it puts money in circulation. Leaving the doors of our banks unlocked and throwing away the key would also put money in circulation, but the long term result might be as disastrous in the one case as the other.

Launching a social security programme and a world war in the same decade is about the most unorthodox economics or political strategy since Adam Smith wrote the Wealth of Nations.

Unless government gets into the hands of specialists rigorously trained for the work they undertake, unless parliamentarians think more of the effect of legislation upon the next generation and less about its effect on the next election democracy as we know it is on the way out.

While petty politicians continue whittling the Dominion of Canada down to the status of a tenth rate power outside the British Empire totalitarianism goes forward from victory to victory. The question today is not who won the war, but who wins the peace. Labour, conscious of its tremendous power, but without effective leadership, threatens to bring production to a standstill. There never was a time in the world's history when the production of the necessities of life was so important. There never was a time when the production of these necessities in reasonable quantities was so uncertain.

Social security, freedom from fear, freedom from ignorance; these words mock us and make sport of us as if we were in the grip of some relentless, irresistible power seeking our ultimate destruction.

When we learn to wage peace with the same force and vigor and entnusiasm as we waged war this will be a happy planet to live on.

I am, Sir, etc.
VERNON CROCKETT
Charlottetown, P E I

The Polish Forces Under British Command

(United Kingdom Information)

Mr. Bevin, the Foreign Secretary, in his statement in the House of Commons on May 22nd regarding members of the Polish Forces in the United Kingdom, recalled that on the twentieth of March he expressed the Government's hope that members of the Polish Armed Forces under British Command who felt able to do so would recognize it was their duty to return to Poland in order to take part in the reconstruction of their country. "As for those who decide they cannot return", he said "I made it clear that His Majesty's Government could not preserve them as an Armed Force under British Command. I said that the problem of their settlement would be studied with sympathy. What plans could be made would depend very largely on the numbers of those remaining. But in any case a demobilization plan would be worked out. If these men had been British soldiers, most of them could have been demobilized already under the age and service scheme".

The particular circumstances of their case meant that ordinary demobilization would take some time. There was no question of discharging them overnight. "I am now able to give further details of His Majesty's Government's plan Those of the Polish troops who have volunteered to return to Poland are being repatriaed under the arrangements we have made. They return to Poland as soldiers, sailors and airmen, since it is for the Polish Provisional Government to decide whether to retain them as members of the Armed Forces or to demobilize them; since in the latter case the Polish Provisional Government has promised them the same rights to grants of land as the demobilized soldiers of the Polish Forces in Poland The men returning to Poland have not hitherto been paid gratutities from British funds We have considered this matter, and decided that those men who return to Poland from this time on shall be eligible, subject to their having the necessary period of qualifying service, to a war gratuity — a money grant equivalent to not more than eight weeks' pay in lieu of release leave and the issue of civilian clothing. As for those Poles who do not wish to return to Poland it is our aim to demobilize them as soon as possible and arrange for their settlement in Britain or overseas in civilian life. Those serving abroad will be brought to this country, starting with those in Italy. Since it would be unfair and impracticable to many of these gallant men who have no knowledge of our language to launch them wholesale on the labour market here and leave them to their own resources, the Government is going to enroll them in a resettlement corps which will be a British organization administered by the Service Ministers Enrolment in this corps will be given assured status and conditions of service, and their rates of pay will be the subject of a detailed announcement later" Mr. Bevin said that the resettlement corps would be a transitional arrangement designed to help the transition from military to civil life.

A man would be discharged from the Polish Armed Forces and enrolled in the new corps with a view to transfer to civilian life as soon as possible Those who had approved jobs would go to them immediately and others would be employed by the Government in the United Kingdom to the fullest possible extent on work such as reconstruction As soon as the work of resettlement was complete, the corps would cease to exist. "As a first step to demobilization and the formation of the resettlement corps," Mr. Bevin added "the Government has decided to bring the Polish Second Corps from Italy to the United Kingdom and it is our intention to move their families from Italy to the United Kingdom as soon as administrative arrangements can be made" The reunion of men and their Polish relatives in America, Germany, South Africa the Middle East India and elsewhere overseas was receiving the active attention of the United Kingdom Government, and the steps necessary to bring it about were being studied Mr. Bevin added: "The Government will continue to give every facility to any Poles who wish and are able to return to Poland and indeed will continue to use their influence with them to go back to their own country. I am happy to state that the Joint Consultative Committee consisting of the Trade Union Congress and the British Employers Federation, have agreed to co-operate with the Government in carrying out these plans." Mr. Churchill, leader of the Opposition, said he would like to acknowledge the care and attention the Government had given to this very difficult question.

Britain's famed Lawrence of Arabia was reflected for front line service in the First Great War because of anemia and short stature.

The Poet's Corner

THE SILENT HOUSE

Deep in a garden running wild
With pink and picotee and rose,
Shuttered and silent sits the house,
Whether alive or dead, who knows?

Day comes and knocks upon the door,
Crying, "Come out and pick with me
The reddening petals of the rose,
The coral cherries from the tree."

Night steals and fingers at the latch,
Sighing, "Come let me in, and I
Will pattern dusty wall and floor
As silver as a salmon's eye."

But only silence answers them:
Only silence in the boughs,
Only silence in the leaves,
And silence in the little house.

—Audrey Alexander Brown.

QUESTIONABLE BELIEF

No report of an eagle carrying off a child has ever been substantiated. Scientists estimate the lifting power of an eagle at not more than seven poumds.

SPEED TO BURN

Naturalists say cheetahs which resemble leopards, have been noted travelling 70 miles an hour.

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